

Study Notes For Ephesians

(Chapter One)

Ephesians 1:1 –

- The church in Ephesus began with the conversion of some who had only known the baptism of John (**Acts 19:1-7**).
- Ephesus was a tough city for the work of the Lord (**Acts 19:8-41**).
- Paul put forth much effort for the congregation in Ephesus and had deep affection for them (**Acts 20:16-38**).
- Later, the congregation there ends up falling away (**Revelation 2:1-7**).
- Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God (**Acts 9:1-20, I Corinthians 1:1, II Corinthians 1:1, Galatians 1:1, Colossians 1:1, and II Timothy 1:1**).
- To the saints which are at Ephesus is the same as saying “to the church, disciples, Christians, etc.” (**Romans 1:7, I Corinthians 1:2, II Corinthians 1:1, Ephesians 2:19**). Even in the Old Testament believers were called saints (**Psalms 30:4, Psalms 31:23, Psalms 37:28, Psalms 97:10, and Hosea 11:12**).
- “Also to the faithful in Christ Jesus” is language indicating this letter was not intended only for the Christians in Ephesus (**Colossians 4:16, I Thessalonians 5:27, and Revelation 1:9-11**).

Ephesians 1:2 –

- Grace from the Father and Jesus (**Romans 3:24, Romans 5:15, I Corinthians 1:3-4, Ephesians 2:4-7, II Thessalonians 2:16, Hebrews 2:8-9, and I Peter 5:10**).
- Peace from the Father and Jesus (**Acts 10:36, Romans 5:1, Philippians 4:7, and Titus 1:4**).

Ephesians 1:3 –

- Blessed be God (**Nehemiah 9:1-5, Psalms 72:18-19, Luke 1:68, II Corinthians 1:3, and II Corinthians 11:31**). *The word “blessed” here (Strong’s # 2128) means “adorable” (i.e. **Mark 14:61**). This is not a loosely used word, but ties to deity each time I can find it used (**Luke 1:68, Romans 1:25, Romans 9:5, etc.**).
- The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (**John 3:13-18, John 5:17-23, John 8:42, John 17:1, Romans 15:6, and Ephesians 3:14**).
- Spiritual blessings (**Acts 20:32, II Corinthians 10:1-5, Ephesians 2:5-10, Ephesians 3:17-21, I Thessalonians 5:8-9, Titus 2:11-14, James 1:17-21, and II Peter 1:2-12**).
 - God does provide a few carnal blessings (**Acts 14:17 and I Thessalonians 5:11-14**).
 - However, for those looking for the “easy life” in Christ carnally; such is not how the Lord blesses Christians (**Matthew 10:34-37, John 16:33, Acts 12:1-2, Acts 14:22, and I Peter 3:14-17**).
- Those spiritual blessings are in heavenly places (**John 14:1-3, Philippians 3:20-21, and I Peter 1:3-9**).

- Those blessings are in Christ (**John 14:6, Romans 3:24, Romans 6:23, I Corinthians 15:57, II Corinthians 8:9, Philippians 4:13, and Hebrews 9:28**).

Ephesians 1:4 –

- Chosen Christians in Christ (**II Thessalonians 2:13-14**).
- Before the foundation of the world (**Isaiah 46:10, Acts 15:18, Romans 16:25-26, Ephesians 3:8-11, and I Peter 1:18-20**).
- Be holy (**Luke 1:74-75, I Corinthians 7:34, II Corinthians 7:1, Ephesians 4:24, Ephesians 5:27, Colossians 3:12, I Thessalonians 4:7, I Timothy 2:9-15, Titus 2:1-8, Hebrews 12:14, I Peter 1:13-16, and Revelation 22:11**).
- Be without blame (**II Corinthians 8:1-22, Philippians 2:14-16, Colossians 1:21-23, I Thessalonians 3:12-13, and II Peter 3:10-14**).
- Do these things before Him (**Hebrews 4:13**).
- Do these things in love (**Galatians 5:6, I John 4:16, and I John 5:2-3**).

Ephesians 1:5 –

- Predestinated [determined before (**Acts 4:28**), foreknow (**Romans 8:29-30**)]. Unlike man's definition of these terms, all that God means is that He knew who His people would be before they were/are His people (**Jeremiah 1:5, Romans 11:1-5, II Timothy 2:19, and I Peter 1:1-2**).
 - God does not select who is saved and who is lost (**Acts 2:40, Romans 6:16-18, and Philippians 2:12**).
 - His Judgment testifies that accountability is based on what you or I do or do not do rather than His choices (**Matthew 25:31-46, John 5:28-29, Romans 14:11-12, and II Corinthians 5:10**).
 - Even when He foreknows something that does not remove a person's freewill (**Jeremiah 20:7-12**).
- Christians are foreknown unto the adoption of children by Christ (**John 1:10-12, II Corinthians 6:14-18, Galatians 4:1-7, Hebrews 2:10, and I John 3:1-3**).
- According to the good pleasure (**Philippians 2:13, II Thessalonians 1:11, and Revelation 4:11**) of His will (**Mark 3:35 and I John 2:15-17**).

Ephesians 1:6 –

- Things are to be done to the praise of the glory of God's grace (**I Chronicles 16:35, Matthew 5:14-16, John 15:8, I Corinthians 10:31, Philippians 2:10-11, I Peter 2:12, and I Peter 4:11**).
- His grace made us accepted (**Romans 3:24, Ephesians 2:1-10, II Thessalonians 2:14-16, Titus 2:11-14, Titus 3:7, and I Peter 5:10**).
- In (**Galatians 3:27**) the beloved is in reference to Christ (**Matthew 3:13-17, Matthew 17:1-5, and II Peter 1:16-18**).

Ephesians 1:7 –

- Redemption through the blood of Christ (**Colossians 1:12-14, Hebrews 9:11-14, and I Peter 1:18-19**).
- Forgiveness through the blood of Christ (**Matthew 26:26-29, Acts 5:30-31, Acts 13:33-39, Ephesians 2:11-17, Hebrews 10:1-20, and Revelation 1:5**).

- In accordance with the richness of His grace (**II Corinthians 8:9**).

Ephesians 1:8 –

- He [Christ] hath abounded toward us (**Romans 5:15**).
- “Abounded” (Strong’s # 4052) meaning abundance (**Matthew 13:12**), increase (**Acts 16:5**), abundant (**Philippians 1:26**), etc. Thus, considering the meaning of that word, what in this verse has been abundant towards us concerning wisdom and prudence? Forgiveness of sins and redemption (previous verse) has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence.
- Understand, the riches of His grace (**Ephesians 1:7**), is much more than just our salvation. This context shows grace includes the wisdom and prudence we have through Christ and in how the mystery of godliness was revealed. Remember, grace is not just “an unmerited favor” as grace teaches us (**Titus 2:11-14**), we grow in grace (**II Peter 3:18**), etc.
- However, wisdom and prudence has also been granted in abundance toward us. Thus, consider some applications.
 - Through Christ we have been granted an abundance of wisdom and these verses help us to understand such (**I Corinthians 1:17-31**, **Colossians 1:28**, **Colossians 2:2-3**, **Colossians 3:16**, and **James 3:13-17**).
 - Through Christ we have been granted an abundance of prudence. Studying the Scriptures on prudence reveals how such is a great mindset to have for many reasons (**Proverbs 13:16**, **Proverbs 14:8**, **Proverbs 14:15**, **Proverbs 15:5**, **Proverbs 16:20-21**, **Proverbs 22:3**, **Proverbs 27:12**, **Hosea 14:9**, and **Acts 13:7**).
 - Wisdom and prudence go hand in hand (**Proverbs 8:12**).
 - Earthly wisdom and prudence is not what we want to have for in such a state we will miss the truth (**Luke 10:21**).
 - We are supposed to be wise (**Proverbs 4:5-7**, **Proverbs 23:23**, **Ephesians 5:15-17**, **Colossians 4:5**; cf. **Proverbs 3:13** and **Ecclesiastes 9:13-18**).
 - However, not fleshly wisdom (**I Corinthians 3:18-19** and **II Corinthians 1:12**).

Ephesians 1:9 –

- God, through His wisdom, has made the mystery known (**Mark 4:11**, **Romans 11:25**, **Romans 16:25-26**, **Ephesians 3:1-11**, **Ephesians 6:19-20**, **Colossians 2:1-2**, and **I Timothy 3:16**).
- The revelation of the mystery ties to wisdom (**I Corinthians 2:4-13**).
- Again, the revelation of the mystery was not of the will or pleasure of men, but of God (**Colossians 1:26-27**).

Ephesians 1:10 –

- A new dispensation (**Jeremiah 31:31-34**, **Colossians 1:24-26**, and **Hebrews 9:15-17**).
- Fullness of times (**Galatians 3:24-4:5**).

- Gathering into one all things in Christ (**Ephesians 2:11-17** and **Colossians 3:10-15**).
- Things in heaven and earth (**Ephesians 2:19-22**, **Ephesians 3:15**, **Colossians 1:20-22**, and **Hebrews 12:22-23**).

Ephesians 1:11 –

- In Christ we have an inheritance (**Colossians 1:12-14**, **Colossians 3:24**, and **Titus 3:6-7**; cf. **John 14:1-3**).
- It is an obtained inheritance in the sense of a promise (**Hebrews 9:15**), but not yet physically obtained (**I Peter 1:3-9**).
- As discussed in verses 4-5, God foreknows His people (**Romans 9:10-12**).
- God worked all things after the counsel of His own will (**Isaiah 46:10-11**).

Ephesians 1:12 –

- Those who were the first to trust in Christ literally were Jewish converts (**James 1:1**; **James 1:18**).
- However, these in Ephesus were not Jews (**Ephesians 2:11**) and Paul included himself (a Jew) in the “we”.
- Therefore, we must conclude the first trusted means Christ is their first [above all else] hope (**I Timothy 1:1**; cf. **Ephesians 4:4**).
- This ties to the new dispensation [new household] (**Hebrews 3:6**).
- It will also tie to the miraculous giving of the Holy Spirit, which we will discuss in the next two verses (**Romans 15:12-13**).
- To the praise of His glory (**Philippians 1:10-11**).
- Trust in Christ (**I Timothy 4:10**) because He is the truth (**John 1:14-17**, **John 14:6**, and **I John 5:20**).

Ephesians 1:13 –

- They trusted (**II Samuel 22:31**, **Psalms 18:30**, **Psalms 119:42**, and **I Timothy 4:10**) after they heard the word of truth (**Psalms 33:4**, **Colossians 1:5**, and **I Thessalonians 2:13**).
- The Gospel of salvation (**Psalms 19:7**, **Mark 16:15-16**, **Romans 1:16**, **Romans 10:14-17**, **Colossians 1:23**, **II Thessalonians 2:14**, and **I Peter 1:21-25**).
- They then were sealed with the Holy Spirit through the laying on of the hands of Paul the Apostle (**Acts 19:1-7**).
- Consider what that meant [no longer today as we have that which is perfect fully revealed; **James 1:25**], in the first century, in whole and detail for every Christian (**I Corinthians 12:1-14:40**). The aforementioned text shows the gifts given, the temporary nature of spiritual gifts, abuses, corrections, purposes, etc.
- Holy Spirit of promise (**Joel 2:28-32**; cf. **Acts 2:1-38**).

Ephesians 1:14 –

- The Holy Spirit was the earnest [pledge; security in sense of down payment; Strong's # 728] of their eternal inheritance to come (**II Corinthians 1:21-22**, **II Corinthians 5:5**, and **Ephesians 4:30**).

- In other words, the proof that they weren't just following some fairy tale was in the giving of the Holy Spirit (**Romans 8:9, Romans 8:16, and I John 3:24**) through the laying on of the Apostle's hands (**Acts 8:12-24**).
- The Holy Spirit was ACTIVE in letting them know they were saved (**Galatians 4:6 and I John 2:24-27**).
- Until, FOR THEM [doesn't apply to me or you; see notes on verse 13] whom had received the Spirit (**Acts 19:1-7**), the redemption referred to the bodily resurrection (**Romans 8:23-25 and I Peter 1:3-12**). They did not lose the Holy Spirit when the New Testament was finalized. He was their down payment. I know some fear to say this because they think that would allow for the miraculous work of the Spirit today. However, it is the right and only sound conclusion on this verse. The verse applied to those whom received the Spirit. We do not today. Doesn't apply to us for that simple reason.
- Now, we have the completed word (**II Timothy 3:16-17**), the perfect law (**James 1:25**) and that gives us the confidence in our reward (**I John 5:13**).
 - The Scriptures testify of themselves through things such as God's recorded foreknowledge [things He knew before man figured them out] (**Job 26:7, Job 38:16, Psalms 8:8, Ecclesiastes 1:7, Ecclesiastes 11:3, Amos 9:6, and Isaiah 40:22**).
 - The Scriptures give us the testimonies of witnesses (**Acts 2:32, Acts 3:13-15, Acts 10:38-39, and I Corinthians 15:1-6**).
- The purchased possession can refer to the church (**Acts 20:28**) or individual Christians (**I Corinthians 6:20**).
- Christians show forth the praises of His glory (**I Peter 2:9**).

Ephesians 1:15 –

- Paul had heard of their faith and love of the brethren, which is a statement for faithful brethren (**Colossians 1:2-4, Philemon 1:5, and I Thessalonians 1:3-7**).
- Faith is an obvious requirement to be pleasing to God (**John 8:23-24, Galatians 5:6, and Hebrews 11:6**).
- However, so is brotherly love (**John 13:34-35, John 15:17, Romans 12:9-10, Galatians 5:13, I Thessalonians 4:9, Hebrews 13:1, I Peter 1:22, I Peter 4:8, I John 3:11-18, I John 4:7, and I John 4:20-21**).

Ephesians 1:16 –

- Paul did not cease to give thanks for them (**Philippians 1:3-4, I Thessalonians 1:2-3, and Philemon 1:4**).
- He mentioned them in his prayers (**Romans 1:9**).
- These are two principles that very much apply today (**I Thessalonians 5:17-18**).

Ephesians 1:17 –

- He prayed for the Spirit, whom they had received (**Ephesians 1:13**), to give them the gifts of wisdom and the revelation of knowledge.
- This was not praying for them to get knowledge through study (which wouldn't make sense to pray for anyway). It was going to be given to them directly from the Holy Spirit as a spiritual gift (**I Corinthians 12:4-11**).

- Christians in the first century could pray for these things (**James 1:5**).
- God is the source of wisdom (**Proverbs 2:6-7**).
 - Then directly (**Luke 21:15** and **I Corinthians 2:9-10**).
 - Now through the word (**Colossians 3:16**).

Ephesians 1:18 –

- Some people have closed eyes (**Matthew 13:15**) and need them opened (**Acts 26:15-18**).
- Our enlightenment comes through the Gospel (**II Timothy 1:10**).
- Their enlightenment came through the Holy Ghost (**Hebrews 6:4-6**; cf. **Acts 19:1-7**). * See notes on Ephesians 1:13 *
- Know the hope of His calling (**Romans 8:24-25**) through the Gospel (**Colossians 1:5**) and through His grace (**II Thessalonians 2:16**).
- The riches of His glory (**Romans 9:23-24**, **Ephesians 3:8**, **Ephesians 3:16**, **Philippians 4:11-19**, **Colossians 1:27**, and **Revelation 3:14-19**).
- The inheritance is a contextual consideration (**Ephesians 1:14**).
- Our inheritance (**Matthew 19:27-29**, **Acts 20:32**, **Colossians 3:22-25**, **Hebrews 6:10-12**, and **I Peter 1:3-4**).

Ephesians 1:19 –

- God has an exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward (**Ephesians 3:17-20**).
- Understand that, contextually and in this verse, that working of His mighty power ties to the miraculous through the Holy Spirit (**John 7:37-39**, **Romans 15:13**, and **I Thessalonians 1:5**).

Ephesians 1:20 –

- As further evidence we are talking of the supernatural, Paul uses the power that was used in raising Christ from the dead as an example of the power working in them (**Romans 1:4**, **Romans 8:11**, and **I Peter 3:18**).
- Jesus is at the right hand of God in Heavenly places (**Mark 16:19**, **Acts 5:30-31**, **Acts 7:55-56**, **Romans 8:34**, **Colossians 3:1**, **Hebrews 12:2**, and **I Peter 3:22**).

Ephesians 1:21 –

- Jesus is, temporarily (**I Corinthians 15:24-28**), FAR above all levels of authority in all “realms” (**Matthew 28:18**, **Philippians 2:9-11**, **Colossians 1:12-17**, **Colossians 2:8-10**, **Colossians 2:14-15**, **Hebrews 1:1-9**, and **I Peter 3:22**).

Ephesians 1:22 –

- Jesus is the builder, founder, and head over all things to the church (**Matthew 16:13-18**, **Acts 20:28**, **Ephesians 4:15-16**, **Ephesians 5:22-32**, **Colossians 1:18**, and **Hebrews 3:1-6**).

Ephesians 1:23 –

- The church is the body of Christ (**Colossians 1:24**), the fullness of Him that filleth all in all (**Ephesians 3:17-19**, **Ephesians 4:1-13**, and **Colossians 3:10-11**).